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ACTION EA 19

INFO NSCE 00, CIAE 00, SSO 00, DODE 00, USIE 00, NSAE 00, CCO 00, SP 02,

SS 35, GPM 03, SC 01, NSC 10, RSC 01, SAH 03, SAL 01, L 03, H 02, EUR 25,

TO 21, P 04, INR 07, AID 30, RSR 01, 168 W

P R 111205Z SEP 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6605
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4207
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 943
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2499

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5652

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: SAIGON 5557

SUBJECT: ELECTION OUTCOME IN LONG AN PROVINCE

THIEU WON KNIFE-EDGE VICTORY IN LONG AN OVER DZU,
POLLING 15,608 VOTES TO DZU'S 15,335. FINISHING FAR
BACK WERE HUONG WITH 9,230 AND SUU WITH 4,325. VOTES IN
PROVINCE CAPITAL OF TAN AN PUT THIEU OVER THE TOP. CIVIL
SERVANTS, MILITARY, AND GENERALLY MORE PROSPEROUS AND
SECURE TOWNSMEN BACKED GVN TICKET OVER DZU IN TAN AN BY
ALMOST TWO TO ONE. DZU REVERSED THIS RATIO IN RELATIVELYPAGE 2 RUMJIN 5652 C O N F I D E N T I A L
INSECURE THU THUA DISTRICT. ELSEWHERE IN LONG AN, THIEU

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE ACTION	
REVIEWED BY	Don Sguberg DATE 12/23/81
REC ☐ OF XES ☐ EXL DATE	
TO AD ☐ R ☐	
ELABORATE ☐ REVERSED ☐	
DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASE ☒	
RELEASE DENIED ☐	
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS	



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AND DZU RAN NECK AND NECK.

2. AMERICANS IN LONG AN DO NOT HAVE EVIDENCE TO CREDIT RUMORS TWT DZU RECEIVED ACTIVE SUPPORT FROM THE VIET CONG. RATHER, THEY ATTRIBUTE DZU'S SUCCESS TO THREE FACTORS: "PEACE" APPEAL, HARD HITTING ATTACKS ON THEIU AND KY, AND IMPORTANT BUT HAR-TO-ASSESS FACTOR OF TAN DAI VIET PARTY SUPPORT.

3. TAN DAI VIET, ALTHOUGH BY NO MEANS A MASS-BASED PARTY, IN NG AN APPARENTLY HAS ORGANIZATION CONSIDERABLY EXCEEDING PREVIOUS ESTIMATES. TDV MEMBERSHIP IS LARGELY CONFINED TO CIVIL SERVANTS, TEACHERS, INTELLECTUALS, AND SOME MILITARY OFFICERS, BUT IN LONG AN TDV PROBABLY BENEFITTED FROM ORGANIZATIONAL ABILITY AND POSITION OF MAJOR NGUYEN VAN XANH WHO WAS LONG AN DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF FOR SECURITY UNTIL TWO WEEKS BEFORE ELECTION. ALTHOUGH HE NEVER ADMITTED IT HIMSELF, XANH IS KNOWN TO BE ACTIVE TDV LEADER. HE WAS RELIEVED OSTENSIBLY BECAUSE OF "ILL-HEALTH" BUT IT APPEARS LIKELY PRO-THIEU/KY PROVINCE CHIEF SACKED XANH BECAUSE HE BECAME ALARMED AT INDICATION OF GROWING DZU/TDV STRENGTH. PROVINCE

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OFFICIALS WHO LIKE OTHER OBSERVERS MAY HAVE UNDERESTIMATED DZU'S PEACE APPEAL AS WELL SAS WELL AS ORGANIZATIONAL POTENTIAL OF TDV, RE-
ACTED LATE BUT PROBABLY IN JUST ENOUGH TIME TO KEEP LONG AN
IN SYN COLUMN.

4. UNLESS ONE CHARACTERIZES DISMISSAL OF XANH AS UNFAIR (AFTER ALL, IF HE WAS USING HIS INFLUENTIAL POSITION TO FURTHER INTERESTS OF DZU, HE WAS IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW), IT CAN BE SAID LONG AN ELECTIONS WERE CONDUCTED WITH EFFICIENCY AND PROVIETY. ONLY IRREGULARITIES NOTED WERE THAT THIEU/KY POSTERS ENJOYED MORE PROMINENCE NEAR POLLING STATIONS THAN ELECTIONS PROGAGANDA OF THEIR OPPONENST, AND THAT IN ONE INSTANCE VOTERS' CARDS WERE RETAINED AT THE POLLING STATION RATHER THAN AS LAW PROVIDES RETURNED TO VOTERS AFTER CLIPPING AND STAMPING. EXPLANATION PROVIDED BY LOCAL OFFICIALS WAS THAT PEOPLE VOTING WERE FROM INSECURE AREAS WHERE VC WERE SURE

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TO CONFISCATE CARDS, AND PERHAPS PUNISH THOSE WHO HAD VOTED.

5. IN UPPER HOUSE ELCTIONS SLATES 14, 15, AND 16, PEACE AND CONTENTMENT I, II AND III, ASSOCIATED WITH TAN DAI VIET, ALL FINISHED IN TOP SIX. LIST NUMBER 13 OF TRAN VA N DON DID WELL ELSE WHERE THROUGHOUT THE NATION. ALSO FINISHING STRONGLY

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IN LONG AN WERE LIST NUMBER 41 OF LE THANH LIEM, WHICH FINISHED 15TH NATIONALLY, LIST NUMBER 47 OF PHAM THAI, WHICH POLLED A DISMAL 32ND NATIONALLY AND 42, HEADED BY PHAN NHU TOAN, WHICH FINISHED 21ST. STRONG SHOWING OF LISTS 41, 42, AND 47 NOT EASY TO EXPLAIN. LIST 41 APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MADE UP LARGELY OF YOUNG MILITARY OFFICERS, POSSIBLY WITH BACKING FROM PRIME MINISTER. LIST 42 ALSO HAS SEVERAL MEMBERS CLOSE TO THE PRIME MINISTER BUT HOA HAO COLORING OF SLATE WOULD NOT HAVE HELPED IN LONG AN. LIST 47 APPEARS TO HAVE BUDDHIST CONNECTIONS. ALTHOUGH LONG AN DOES NOT HAVE A VERY ACTIVE LOCAL BRANCH OF THE UNITED BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION, PROVINCE IS READILY ACCESSIBLE TO SAIGON AND THIS MAY HAVE FACILITATED QUIET UBA CAMPAIGN EFFORT.

6. AFTER MUCH ANTI-ELECTION PROPAGANDA AND A SERIES OF INCURSIONS INTO GENERALLY GVN-CONTROLLED TERRITORY ADJACENT TO ROUTE 4 IN WEEKS PRECEDING ELECTION, ON ELECTION DAY VC FAILED TO DISRUPT POLLING ANYWHERE IN THE PROVINCE. ONLY MAJOR INCIDENT WAS ELECTION MORNING ATTACK ON CHIEU HOI CENTER ON OUTSKIRTS OF PROVINCE CAPITAL WHERE SEVERAL CASUALTIES WERE INFLICTED ON FRIENDLY FORCES. GP-3. BUNKER

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